

fish and wildlife habitat and assist farmers and urban dwellers in overcoming drought conditions. In addition, the bill provides permanent authority for the Secretary to prepare drought contingency plans in consultation with States, Indian tribes, and other entities for the prevention or mitigation of the adverse effects of drought conditions.

As I sign this bill, some areas in our Western States, notably in California, are facing their 6th consecutive year of drought conditions. The authorities granted by this bill will allow the Federal Government greater flexibility in utilizing the facilities of the Federal reclamation program and the resources of the Department of the Interior to assist the States and other non-Federal entities fighting the ravages of drought. This bill allows us to be the good neighbors that we should be in time of common need. It is in the American tradition that neighbor helps neighbor in times of burden. We will not stand by and see either our local economies and jobs literally “dried up” by drought or our valuable refuges and wetlands parched by lack of water.

We are fortunate that, in the last few weeks, the water supply situation in California has improved. So I am pleased to announce that today Secretary Lujan will make available additional allocations of more than 1 million acre feet of water. This will enable us to deliver project water to agriculture in the Central Valley—without sacrificing *any* allocations provided for other uses. This is only a first step—but a very positive one for California agriculture. I have asked Secretary Lujan to continue to assess the water supply situation and to keep me informed of any opportunity to provide additional Federal water where it

is needed.

I note, however, that section 204(a) purports to require that the Secretary of the Interior submit certain drought contingency plans to the Congress, together with the Secretary’s recommendations for legislation. The Constitution grants to the President the power to recommend to the Congress such measures as he judges necessary and expedient. Thus, provisions such as the one contained in this bill have been treated as advisory and not mandatory. I will therefore interpret section 204(a) accordingly.

Section 204(b), which purports to allow the Secretary of the Interior to approve certain drought contingency plans only at the request of the Governor of the affected State, could be construed to permit the exercise of Executive power by Governors, who are not appointed pursuant to the Appointments Clause of the Constitution. In order to avoid constitutional questions that might otherwise arise, I will interpret the role of Governors under this provision to be an advisory one.

I also note that the Department of Agriculture conducts drought contingency planning and administers drought assistance programs in agricultural areas. New planning and technical assistance activities initiated by the Department of the Interior will of course be coordinated with the Department of Agriculture and other affected departments and agencies.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
March 5, 1992.

Note: H.R. 355, approved March 5, was assigned Public Law No. 102–250.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the Kissimmee Basin Restoration Project

March 5, 1992

The President is pleased to announce that the Federal Government has reached in principle agreement with the State of Flor-

ida to restore a major portion of the lower Kissimmee Basin. The project envisioned would restore 66 miles of river and 29,000

acres of wetlands. It will help benefit over 300 species and create jobs in the process. We are prepared to agree to a plan which will implement this project in partnership with the State, with many of the costs shared fifty-fifty. Tomorrow, Assistant Sec-

retary of the Army Nancy P. Dorn will meet with Governor Chiles to iron out the details. But we are ready to move forward with a project that is good for Florida's environment and good for its economy, too.

Nomination of I. Lewis Libby, Jr., To Be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

March 5, 1992

The President today announced his intention to nominate I. Lewis Libby, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. This is a new position.

Currently Mr. Libby serves as Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Strategy and Resources at the U.S. Department of Defense in Washington, DC. Prior to this Mr. Libby served as a partner with the law firm of Dickstein, Shapiro & Morin in Washington, DC, 1985–1989. In addition, he served

at the U.S. Department of State as Director of Special Projects at the Bureau of East Asian & Pacific Affairs, 1982–1985, and on the Policy Planning Staff in the Office of the Secretary, 1981–1982.

Mr. Libby graduated from Yale College (B.A., 1972) and Columbia University School of Law (J.D., 1975). He was born August 22, 1950, in New Haven, CT. Mr. Libby is married and resides in Washington, DC.

Remarks at a Bush-Quayle Rally in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

March 6, 1992

The President. Thank you, Senator Nickles, for that kind introduction. May I salute our State chairman, Clinton Key, and finance chairman, Ed Lawson. And I'm pleased to share this stage this morning with some of this State's finest: State Representative Larry Ferguson, Mayor Norick of Oklahoma City, Mayor Randal Shannon of Edmond, and Commissioners Watts and Bob Anthony. Welcome to all of them and, last but not least, Treasurer Claudette Henry. And I also want to express my deep appreciation to your hometown Congressman, Mickey Edwards, who couldn't be here today because he's back in Washington participating in the budget debate and helping me hold the line on Federal spending.

And may I also salute two friends of long standing, Ed and Thelma Gaylord. This square is a fitting tribute to Thelma, and I think we're all very grateful to them. And finally, let me note what a great host Terry

Johnson has been today. And a special thanks to George Wesley, who we just heard doing a superb job singing the national anthem. But most of all, thanks to every one of you who got up at all hours this morning to come to Edmond, from Elk City to Enid and towns all across Oklahoma, to show your support. And a special welcome to all the students here from Oklahoma Christian. One question. One question, just one question: Is it too late to audition for the spring sing?

Well, let's talk about our country. We are in a battle for our future, and I am determined that America should leave young people like you the best possible legacy. And we want America to lead the world in good jobs with productive work. And we want to remain a force for world peace and